

quently gives place to the scarlet-vermilion, in the light of our present knowledge, can only be a matter of conjecture.

These two points, however, may be regarded as pretty well settled: (1) that the female does not have this brightly-colored crown, and (2) that some young autumnal males (very likely a large majority of them) do possess this ornament.

In regard to the use of this decoration, I strongly suspect it to be not merely an ornament induced by sexual selection for the delectation of the female, but of considerable service to the bird in his "entomophagical" pursuits. But as I have no evidence to offer upon the subject, it would be unprofitable to discuss it here.

A careful comparison of Eastern with Western Province specimens fails to reveal any tangible differences of plumage or structure.

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NOTICE OF A COLLECTION OF STALKED CRINOIDS MADE BY THE STEAMER ALBATROSS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AND CARIBBEAN SEA, 1884 AND 1885.

By RICHARD RATHBUN.

During the early part of 1884 and of 1885, the U. S. Fish Commission steamer Albatross, Lieut. Commander Z. L. Tanner, U. S. N., commanding, was engaged in exploration to the south and southeast of the United States. The former year, under the direction of the Hydrographic Bureau of the U. S. Navy, she was mainly employed in making sounding observations in the Caribbean Sea region; but a short stop for dredging purposes was made off Havana, Cuba, where the U. S. Coast Survey steamer Blake had already discovered a rich assemblage of stalked crinoids. In 1885 the Albatross remained about three months in the Gulf of Mexico, visiting the same locality off Havana, and adding very largely to the natural-history results of the previous year. Brief accounts of these two cruises have already been given in this volume of Proceedings (pp. 83 and 696).

Stalked crinoids were collected off Havana, Cuba, off Santiago de Cuba, and in the northeastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of Florida. Only four species were obtained—*Rhizocrinus Rawsoni*, *Pentacrinus decorus*, *P. Mülleri*, and *P. asterius*. The first-mentioned species was taken at all of the above localities, *Pentacrinus decorus* and *P. asterius* off Havana only, and *P. Mülleri* off Havana and off Santiago de Cuba.

The collection made off Havana is an exceedingly fine one, containing over 600 specimens, a large proportion of which are in a very perfect state of preservation, due to the great care bestowed upon them by the naturalists on board. As regards this locality, Mr. James E. Benedict, the chief naturalist of the Albatross, states that all the specimens of sea-lilies were obtained to the eastward, and within sight, of